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City Charter in Print; Decision March 16

G. P. PLANT EXPANSION ANNOUNCED

Wholesale Bulk Center Being Erected Here Costing \$12,000
Further evidence of the recognized importance of Torrance as an industrial and distributing center is found in a building operation just started here by General Petroleum Corporation...

The plant, representing an investment of approximately \$12,000, is rising on a portion of the big Torrance refinery property of General, at the southeast corner of Hawthorne and Dominguez boulevards.

Planned for completion about Feb. 1, this establishment will consist of warehouse for storage of large quantities of Mobiloil and Mobilgrease and the company's industrial lubricants...

Up to the present, Campbell, who has developed a large and constantly growing business, in the supplying of Mobil products to service stations, has maintained his headquarters at Redondo Beach.

Decision to locate the plant at Torrance was made after a careful survey, according to the statement of Fred C. Davies, Southern California sales manager for General Petroleum...

More than a score of firemen and police officers attended the first of a series of 12 Monday night instruction classes in first aid this week.

Surprisers Surprised

Job Paddock Honored on 90th Birthday at Home in Lomita

When a man as popular as Job E. Paddock of Lomita is 90 a windy rainy night on his birthday is no bar to friends who want to honor him.

Confined to his bed for the first time in many years, Job Paddock, 90-year-old Lomitan, is now reported quite ill at his home.

On Tuesday, Dec. 29, Paddock appeared at the Masonic installation in Lomita to take the office of chaplain of the lodge for the seventh successive time.

Building Year Off to Good Start Here

Erection of two oil derricks and a \$3,000 alteration job at the National Supply Company office building launched the 1937 building program in Torrance, according to records on file today in City Engineer Frank Leonard's office.

\$300 Found in Overalls Sent to Laundry

A cotton bag containing \$300 in bills of large denomination representing months' of savings by a local resident in anticipation of a long dreamed-of eastern trip, went to the Torrance Laundry with a pair of soiled overalls last week and emerged intact.

The money was discovered by a laundry worker employed in the marking department and promptly reported to Owner Manager William Rojo.

"And then he did not call for it until his laundry was ready," Rojo said, taking an evident and justifiable pride in the knowledge that his customer placed complete trust in the laundry.

Rainfall Double Last Season's

This season's drenching rainstorms have more than doubled the rain total at this date last year, according to a report received from the high school where daily rain recordings are being made.

The high school weather bureau reports that the storm covered the city with 1.44 inches of rain from last Wednesday (Dec. 30) at 4 p. m. to this morning.

COOPER BOUND OVER ON CAR THEFT COUNT

Awaits Hearing On Hit-Run Charge But Denies Money Theft

Without his asking any questions of the three state's witnesses or offering any defense, Eugene Cooper, 41, whose one wild hour, Dec. 29, included failure to pay a \$5 fine for drunkenness alleged theft of a car, hit-and-run driving and asserted theft of \$90 and a revolver, was bound over to superior court for trial on the car theft charge Monday afternoon.

Cooper had been arrested by Capt. John H. Stroh late Wednesday afternoon while he was walking on Acacia street. He was turned over to sheriff's officers after being booked on the auto theft charge here and his arraignment before City Judge Robert Lessing set.

After the preliminary hearing in Judge Lessing's court, Cooper was taken to Gardena by deputy sheriffs for arraignment on the hit-and-run charge but this examination was postponed until next Monday morning.

The defendant, a large, florid unmarried man and former Columbia Steel worker, was not represented by counsel but a public defender will be appointed for him at the time of his superior court trial on Tuesday.

Second witness was R. E. Schumert, 911 at the Columbia plant. He said he saw Cooper in the machine between 4 and 4:15 p. m., Nov. 29, and learned it was gone about 4:55. Capt. John H. Stroh was the last witness and he repeated a conversation with the defendant after Cooper's arrest in which the prisoner admitted he took

Chambers Meet Here On Jan. 14

Harbor District Group to Install Officers

Continuing the custom of holding the installation dinner-meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce in Torrance, the annual event this year—Thursday evening, Jan. 14,—will be combined with the quarterly session of members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The dual meeting will be held at the Woman's clubhouse, beginning at 6:30 o'clock. Supervisor Leland M. Ford will be the main speaker and E. C. Thomas, public relations representative of the Pacific Electric, will be the installing officer.

New officers for 1937 are: Loren Howe, Hawthorne, president; Atty. Irving P. Austin, Compton; Thomas Blair, Redondo Beach; Hugh B. Johnston, Gardena; and E. C. Power, Bell, vice-presidents; George P. Larson, West Los Angeles, secretary, and Ray O. Baldwin, Long Beach, secretary.

The Torrance Municipal band will entertain during the dinner hour. To assure seating arrangements and dinner service (at 75 cents per plate) for all, reservations should be made with Secretary L. J. Gilmeister of the local chamber, not later than Tuesday, Jan. 12.

All 15 Freeholders Approve Their Work for Better Government; Citizens Urged to Study Draft

Complete Text of City Charter Will Be Found On Page 5-B



Photo by Hag & Hag. THEIR WORK DONE, 12 of the 15 Freeholders delayed their final session Monday night to pose for these photographs. Later, Judge Robert F. Lessing, secretary, was snapped as he watched Chairman Carleton Bell affix his signature to the City Charter draft.

Advantages of Constitutional Law Reported

By ROBERT F. LESSING, Secretary, Board of Freeholders

The proposed charter of the city of Torrance represents ten months of careful research and planning on the part of the 15 persons elected as freeholders last April. This document did not just "happen."

The subjects in question. The document for the first time will be one of surprise at its unusual brevity and simplicity. But therein lies its strength.

The charter is so designed that when the electors go to the polls to ratify it, they will be confronted, not with a mass of confusing questions, but, rather, with two clearly defined issues: First, "Shall Torrance adopt a charter form of government?"

City Charter Advantages A number of other issues were discussed during the meetings of the freeholders, all of which were of importance, but it was recognized that if we attempted to go the whole distance to "municipal bliss" in one stride, we would not only confuse the greater part of the electorate who have neither the time nor the inclination to make an exhaustive study of the law, but we might also involve the city in a maze of litigation on matters that are not yet definitely settled in the courts.

To analyze each separate provision of the charter in the limited space of one article would be impossible and so I will discuss at this time only the two major issues mentioned above.

Background of Charter Draft Frankly Told

By CARLETON B. BELL, Chairman, Board of Freeholders

Almost ten months ago you elected a Board of Freeholders 15 in number, to study municipal government under a charter and to draft a charter suitable to the peculiar needs of the city of Torrance.

I believe the voters of Torrance should have a report of the manner in which the Board of Freeholders worked and finally arrived at the conclusions upon which the proposed charter was built.

None of the members of the board could be termed other than amateurs in the matter of charters and the administration of municipal affairs, hence, it was necessary first to make an extensive study of the subject before an intelligent start could be made on the task of drafting a charter.

At least 90 percent of the time taken in preparing the charter for presentation to you was given over to this study of the subject and the presentation by the different committees of proposed sections and their discussion and adoption or rejection by the board.

Your Questions . . . PLEASE PUT THEM IN WRITING . . .

Have you any questions concerning the proposed City Charter? Send them in writing to The Herald or Judge Robert Lessing and they will be answered in this newspaper. Comments by residents are also invited by The Herald and these will be published as space permits.

Vermont Work To Widen Road Starting Soon

Elimination of the Vermont avenue "bottleneck" in Gardena is scheduled to start immediately in order to be completed in February, according to word received here this week. It is understood that work orders for the job have been issued by the Pacific Electric.

This project, costing \$31,700, provides for the enlargement of the narrow highway between 164th and 166th streets. An entire crew of workmen is to be moved directly from a similar project in Hawthorne to Gardena upon completion of the Hawthorne improvement.

The work orders for the Gardena project call for approximately 30 days to be spent on the job of lowering P. E. tracks and paving the widened portion of the avenue.

Amateur Contest Series of Shows Begins Jan. 22

An "amateur contest" to end all "amateur contests" was announced today by the Torrance Recreation department. This will consist of three preliminary free shows a month apart at the civic auditorium and a gala presentation of the winners in an April entertainment when the Torrance Retail Merchants' Association will donate the cash awards to the three best acts of the whole project.

Registrations will be taken for the three "warm-up" shows, the first to be held Jan. 22, at the Herald office by a representative of the Recreation department on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 o'clock. There will be no restriction on the acts other than the reservation that the sponsors will arrange balanced programs for each of the three preliminary entertainments and no contestant may appear in two shows except the finalists.

Talent of any description is wanted and the contest is open to all residents of Torrance and vicinity. All of the shows will be free to the public.

Abrams Riggering for Oil Test Well Here

John Abrams and associates of Los Angeles are riggering for an initial test in the southwest area near Dearborn Oil's producer in the Torrance field. Hunt Oil company, near by, is in oil zone in its re-drill of an old Fullerton Oil hole at 4,300 feet. Chancellor-Canfield-Midway is starting to deepen another of its Del Amo wells in the same territory.

Plan President's Ball

Torrance and Gardena to Unite For Riviera Festivities, Jan. 30

"Dance so that hundreds may walk," is the apt slogan inviting millions of Americans to enjoy the fourth annual President's Ball that will be held in every city, town and hamlet throughout the nation, Saturday night, Jan. 30.

Once again, hundreds here will throng that beautiful center paying their \$1 per couple to enjoy the music of Graff's orchestra or play cards with friends, neighbors and friends-for-the-evening so that infantile paralysis may be fought with their admission fees. For the third year, 70 percent of the proceeds will remain in this area for treating local victims of that dread disease, while the remaining 30 percent will go to a national foundation headed by the President for continued research.

CIVIC BUILDING BIDS TOO HIGH OFFICIALS SAY

Alternate Construction to Be Recommended to the City Council

Seven bids, ranging from \$23,350 to \$29,986, were received by the city council at its adjourned meeting Tuesday night for the construction of the proposed civic administrative building adjoining the civic auditorium on El Prado.

"But the offers were considerably higher than estimates of the work by City Engineer Frank R. Leonard and Architect P. A. Eisen. They had figured the building would cost about \$17,000 and not over \$18,000 on a basis of \$4 to \$4.50 per square foot.

As a result of the wide discrepancy, Mayor W. H. Stanger said yesterday that he would welcome a recommendation from the city engineer to throw out all bids and call for new estimates.

"Concrete Instead of Steel" I believe we should amend the specifications to include an alternate of reinforced concrete construction instead of the specified steel under the original plans," Stanger said. "We cannot build the structure with any of the present bids because our PWA allocation toward the cost will not permit anything over \$18,000."

"We are going through the bids carefully to determine just where the 'bugs' are," Engineer Leonard said. "The bid prices were way over our estimates and considerably higher than the cost per foot of the other new civic center buildings. We intend to find out where the proposed administrative building costs have advanced and eliminate factors which have caused this increase."

A large number of contractors (Continued on Page 2-A)

Rotary Governor To Address Club

At their first meeting of the New Year, members of the Torrance Rotary club will be honored tonight with a visit by Marshall DeMotte, district governor. The session will be a tri-city event, with Rotarians from Redondo and Hermosa Beach clubs present to welcome the new governor.

President Charles V. Jones has arranged a splendid program for the occasion. Bunola Kay will make a return appearance as entertainer as a guest of Mme. Teala Billini, and Governor DeMotte will give an important address.